# CHRISTMAS.

Ceneral Observance of the Festival in the Metropolis.

Impressive Ceremonies in the Churches.

The Day in the Public Institutions.

A Jolly Time on the Skating Ponds.

The Holiday in Brooklyn, Jersey City, Newark and Elsewhere. .

The Christmas of 1868 has taken its place in the

catalogue of the things that are past, and will in the ture be reverted to as a festival season around which are clustered many joyous recollections and hallowed associations. Not the least pleasing renembrance of it will be the thought that it was the first anniversary of the nativity of Him whose alvent was announced nearly 2,000 years ago as the harbinger of "Peace on earth and good will towards men" on which the signs of lasting "peace" and returning "good will" have appeared for the nation auxious Christmas day of 1860, when the people, startled from their dream of peace and progress, listened with throbbing electric whispers that told the element of discord was debated the doctrine of secession which the Palmetto State had openly promulgated five days before. Toany minds the awakening of those memories of the past lent to the festival of vesterday the interest and sacred import of a thanksgiving. Eight years of discord have rolled away and the dawn of the ninth is tinged with the warmth of the sun of peace turning to bring forth the buds and blossoms of a benign and lasting fellowship to the constellation of the States. And of all the cities of the Union none has more reason to rejoice at this joyous issue than New York, the metropolis of a hemisphere whose commerce was so long paralyzed with the shock of New York did rejoice, and never in her history has a more harmonious observance of the great festival of the Christian world been manifested than that of yesterday. Business was almost entirely suspended, and her 1,000,000 of souls voted the day to prayer and praise and to fraternal intercourse. Her churches were decked in the sumptuous beauty which bedited the celebration of the advent of their Founder upon earth, and the services were attended by immense and devout con-courses of worshippers. Her citizens thronged her thoroughfares in living streams, and amity and good will to all men were the sentiments that welled up in every heart. Old associations were rekindled the unhallowed memories of days agone were buried, friendships that human passion had once dissolved were cemented anew, and yows of forgive-ness, faith and love were registered on the tablets of the human heart. The soul of charity went forth into the streets gathering in the hungry and the faint, the aged and the tender orphan, whom the curtain of adversity had veiled from the eager eyes of the trafficking world, and made them feel that they were not altogether forgotten. It was a carnival day, in fact, when the people feit that not to be happy and loving toward r neighbors was to be out of joint with all the rest of humanity. The weather was clear, bright and beautiful, and though somewhat cold was nevertheless such as enabled all to enjoy them-selves. It was such a day that within doors or without mankind felt cheerful and bucyant, and was a fitting manguration of the holiday week which shall usher an old year into the grave and a newer and brighter into being.

## SERVICES IN THE CHURCHES.

Trinky Church. The divine services at Trinity church yesterday were of the impressive character that belongs to the festival of Christmas and the sublime event which the Church celebrates on this occasion, the nativity of our Lord and Savior. Trinity has always held a foremost place among the churches of our city in its observances of the day the impressiveness with which it surrounds its on this time honored festival of the The decorations of the interior of the

control try. In the convertances of the way and the impressiveness with which it surrounds it services on this time honored festival of the Chrort. The decorations of the interior of the Unchild decorations of the interior of the Unchild decorations of the interior of the Unchild decoration of the Chrort of Society to the teaching of the Chrort of the Chron of the Chrort of the Chror of

who are equally rich with the wealthlest of this world in the fact that it say were all—the poorest and the humblest—the adepted sons of God through Christ.

The sermon was attentively listened to to the end.

Church of the Most Holy Redeemer-Two Pontifical Masses—Immense Congregations.

At the Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy tedeemer, on Third street. between avenues A and P, the services yesterday, in commemoration of the holy nativity of Christ, were very imposing and largely attended. A prominent American Catholic never mentions this church withou speaking of it as "the grand old church," and the Christmas ser-

vices yesterday fully justified this epithet. Already as early as four o'clock in the marning, while ninetynine hundredths of the population of the city were still wrapped in sleep, a very large congregation from naming all parts of the city and representing all nationalities had assembled within the sacred edifice filling every available space. The church was officially a same last and burning tapers aitties had assembled within the sacred edifice filling every available space. The church was offilinantly lighted up, gas jets and burning "at tapers spreading the light of day into every corner and nook of the building, and the right hand side altar, dedicated especially to the Holf Redeemer, was profusely, yet chastely and tasefully decorated with evergreens, the whole presenting, indeed, a splendid sight, calculated not only to dazzle the eye, but amid which the sonorous tones of the organ, under the masterly touch of Professor Spoth, evoked pilety from even unwhilms hearts. At the main altar Rev. M. Leimgruber, Congregationis Sunctissimi Redemptoris, rector of the parish, officiated as celebrant, assisted by Rev. R. Preis as deacon and Rev. Henry Mearer as sub-deacon, with a great number of acolytes. No sermon was preached at this early Pontifical mass. The appearance of the main altar, covered with hundreds of lights, and the officiating clergy in new vestments of heavy gold embroidery on rich siks, specially prepared for this occasion, was brilliant. The mass performed by the choir, under the leadership of Professor Spoth, was a new one, written for Christmas by Cari Kempter, full of charming pastoral melodics, and was well executed. After this "still masses" were read in regular succession, and the sacraments of confession and communion administered until ten o'clock, when the second pontifical high mass was celebrated, and again before an immense congregation, at this time mostly German. Rev. Henry Meurer officiated as celebrant, Rev. A. Urban as deacon, and Rev. P. Frischbier as sub-deacon, with the usual number of acolytes. Rev. M. Leimgruber delivered the sermon in the German language. He referred to the biblical account of the birth of Christ; that a announcement was made by the angel to the shepherds guarding their focks at might, and that they healtated not, but immediately went to view and adore the new born Saviour, not with eyes of the fiesh, but in the faith. Thus Christians should approach t

merciful to their fellow creatures—to the poor, the orphan, to all who need herp and succor; for whatever is done to the lowest of man is done to Christ and to God. The mass performed by the choir was one of the best of Anton Diabelli, a well known composer of church music, the "Offertorium" of Donai Mueller, and a "Gradnaie" by Schiedermeir, were also performed with great conciseness and power, and a "Grand March" was played by Loesch's orchestra. orchestra.

A very interesting ceremony will take place at this church on Tuesday morning next. Rev Dionysius Stolz, formerly a lay member of this congregation and lately a consecrated a priest of the Order of St. Benedict at Pittaburg, will read his first mass, and all the usual interesting ceremonies on such occasions, well known to Catholics, will be observed.

Christmas at St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church-Carole, Morning and Communion

The natal day of the Saviour was particularly observed at this ancient edifice yesterday morning. The doors of the church were opened as early as halfpast nine A. M., at which hour the congregation bepast nine A. M., at which hour the congregation of gan to assemble, many of them attracted—the regular services of the day not commencing that deven o'clock—by the desire to listen to the usual carol singing of the scholars of the Sunday school. At half-past ten o'clock these were gathered around the steps of the altar, where, under the direction of Doctors Dix and Wright and Bay M. Fortage transparence. tors Dix and Wright and Bev. Mr. Foster, two exceedingly beautiful compositions, both in words and music, were sung. These were severally entitled. "The Snow Lay on the Ground," and "See, Amid the Winter's Snow." Unfortunately, in consequence of some impediment in the organ, which, however, was of a temporary character, Mr. Cornell, the organist,

and the composer of the music of the carols, was unable to accompany the children. At the conclusion of the singing the reverend gentlemen retired for a few moments to the robing room, thus giving the congregation an opportunity to inspect the decorations of the church customary during the Christmas tide. These are simple, but striking. The fronts of the side and altar galleries and the columns and capitals supporting the roof were dressed with holly, laurel and branches of fir and pine. The altar proper, which, by the interposition of the reading desk and pulpit, is greatly hidden from the body of the auditorium, was left untouched, while the square column which supports the pulpit had on it a cross made of cedar branches. The general effect was striking. The decorations were sufficient and no more. There was no crowding, no aiming at effect, and the natural result was a simplicity in harmony with the thoughts inspired by the occasion, and, it may be added, the internal finish of the building. At eleven o'clock the usual morning service was read; the lessons for the day, taken from the Old and New Testaments, were of the prophecies and coming and birth of the Son of God. The music able to accompany the children. At the conclusio plicity in harmony with the thoughts inspired by the occasion, and, it may be added, the internal finish of the building. At eleven o'clock the usual morning service was read; the leasons for the day, taken from the Old and New Testaments, were of the prophecks and coming and birth of the Son of God. The music during the service, most of it arranged or created by the organist, Mr. J. H. Cornell, was not only finely conceived but exquisitely rendered. Among the leading features were the Processional, hymn forty-six, the Fenste and the Psalter, chanted to single chants; Te Deum, expressly composed for the occasion by Mr. Cornell and particularly for congregational use. The anthem, "lebold I brind you good tidings," &c., was that of John Goss. The responses to the Commandments, as also the music of the Offertory, "Unto Usa Child is Born," were by the organist; the music in the communion service, excepting that which pertains to the forty-seventh hymn, was arranged by Mr. Cornell. Hymn forty-dy-w was from one of Haydn's masses. At the close of the regular usual services Dr. Dita secended the pulpit and, quoting as his text for the occasion the fourth verse of the forty-sixth Psalin, preached an exceedingly eloquent sermon and pertiuent to the occasion. The Doctor in opening presented to the minds of his hearers the figure of a rock, rising in mid occas, against which the winds and the waves beat in vain for ages, as a type of the gospel, which, though the world hough the floods beat their created waves with all fury against it, it was firm. Nothing could change, nothing could disturb it. Thousands upon thousands of years may come and go, but the gospel of God would be the same. Time cannot alter or mar it. In the calm as in the storm it was the same, unwinkled, unworn, granite-sealed monument—a testimony of eternal truth, as it was in the old time when the light of God first illuminated the soul—the same when the Saviour of men came to lead us to be Father and to the forgiveness of our sins. That rock as it was in

how sweet and beautiful and self-sacrificing was every outline of it, and exhorted his congregation to endeavor to imitate its sacred example. Commu-nion service was performed after the conclusion of the sermon.

St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The third Christmas mass at the Cathedral yesterday was given as a pontifical high mass, with full choral accompaniments, and was, beyond a doubt, the most impressive ceremony by which the great festival was celebrated in this city. Puncturally at half-past ten o'clock the solemn procession issued from the vestry room at the right nand or gospel side of the sanctuary and proceeded to the foot of the altar steps in the following order:—Rev. Father McInerny, master of ceremonies, processional cross bearer, with colytes carrying lighted tapers on either side sixteen acolytes in red cassocks and while surplices; Rev. Fatner Kearney, assistant mas-er of ceremonies; Rev. Father McGean, deacon of the mass; Rev. Father Ducey, sub-deacon of the mass; Rev. Drs. Anderdon and McSweeney, deacons of honor; Very Rev. Father Starrs, assistant priest, seven pages wearing sontans of white with scarlet trimmings and red slippers. On arriving before the attar they all knelt and the ceremony was at once commenced, while the Cathedra Choir, augmented by a spientid chorus of some iwenty voices acleted from the Ledeckrans of monet the Kyrte of Haydu's beautiful. Mass No. 14 (1986) and the Kyrte of Haydu's beautiful. Mass No. 14 (1986) and the Kyrte of Haydu's beautiful. Mass No. 16 (1986) and the taxing as his text these words from Julie 7. "And laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn," proceeded to deliver an eloquent and forcible sermon on the mystery of the nativity and the circumstances connected with 17 and the three motives which prompted our Divine Redeemer to come into the world as he did, rather than being attended by pomp and power, to undergo suffering, to show his humility and to testify his unbounded love for mankind. Concillar, he said:—"What our Divine Lord wants, now, is lifty his unbounded love for mankind. Concillar, he said:—"What our Divine Lord wants, now, is most of the world was the said:—"What our Divine Lord wants, now, is most of the world. The mankind concillar, he said:—"What our Divine Lord wants, now, is now that take up His lodgings in the said:—"What our Divine Lord Harder Wald Jesus Christ take up His lodgings in the said:—"What take up His lodgings in the said the said have room in it for Him to rest well must be emptied of all sin, Rather we wild Jesus Christ take up His lodgings in the said the said have the said th

Zion Episcopal Church. The services yesterday at Zion Episcopal church corner of Broadway and Thirty-eighth street, were of that nature prescribed by the Protestant Episcopal Church for this season of the year. Morning and afternoon services were held, Bishop Southgate officiating on both occasions. The church was neatly ceked with evergreens and was well attended throughout the day. At the morning services after the singing of the nineteenth, forty-fifth and eightyfifth Psalms the nineteenth chapter of Isalah was read, which was followed by the reading of the gos-pel of the day, the second chapter of St. Luke. This was in turn followed by the reading of the first pel of the day, the second chapter of St. Luke. This was in turn followed by the reading of the first schapter of St. Paul to the Hebrews, after which the gospel of St. John was read and was followed by the gospel of St. John was read and was followed by the singing of the forty-fifth hymn. Bishop Southgate then ascended the pulpit and delivered a short, but eloquent sermon, taking for his text the second chapter of St. Luke, beginning at the words, "And ske brought forth her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn," and ending with the fourteenth verse, "Giory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The mission of Carist to earth, said the reverend gentleman, was heralded by this song of the angelic choir. The giory of God was thus to be ordained and the hearts of men were to be made glad by these tidings of great joy, even now, as were the hearts of the poor shepherds who kept watch over their flocks eighteen hundred years ago. As you gather around your hearths to-day, let this feeling gladden your hearts, for to you this day there is born a Saviour. If we are to be Christians, continued the revered gentleman, we must be Christians with peace and good will on earth, otherwise we fail to fallil the great end ordainoi for us by the Creator. This is our mission, as it was His, and every Christian must fulfil this vocation under Christ. Christmas must renovate us if it does its proper work, and we must be new born, as was the babe at Bethiehem, with a new life to be spent, for the same purpose as was His—"Peace on earth, good will toward men." Bishop Southgate, in concluding, made a touching appeal to his congregation for the poor of his flock, saying: "These are they to whom your offering of peace and good will must be made."

The services at St. James' church yesterday were of the most impressive character, carried out brated at half-past four A. M., the pastor, the Rev. Father Farrelly, acting as celebrant, brated at hair-past four A. M., the pastor, the Rev. Father Farrelly, acting as ceiebrant, assisted by Father Callaghan as deacon, and Rev. Mr. McEvoy as subdeacon. The church was filled to repletion. A most eloquent sermon, appropriate to the dar, was preached by Rev. Father Farrelly. The mass sung was Generalies' grand high mass, double quartet choir and chorus. Mr. Melville presided at the organ. The altars, which are, perhaps, the linest in the city, were brilliantly lighted and decorated profusely with flowers and evergreens. The pillars and galleries were festooned with evergreens. Athaif-past ten A. M. another grand high mass was celebrated, when a most eloquent and impressive sermon was delivered by the Rev. Father St. Jouin, S. J., of St. John's Coilege, Fordham, who took for his text, "And this shall be a sign unto your you shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger." The reverend gentieman in enlarging on this text said that by the birth of the Saviour of mankind in a stable under such extraordinary circumstances of lumiliation a fatal blow had been dealt to what the Evangelist described as the occasion of all sin, namely, the concupiscence of the flesh, of the eyes and the pride of life. The number of communicants at the different masses was unprecedentedly large.

The special services held at Trinity chapel, West Twenty-fifth street, yesterday morning were attended by a large and fashionable congregation. The interior of this handsome Gointe edifice was decorated in the customary elaborate and appropriate manner. The morning services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Swope, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Olmstead. The usual formulary of morning confession and prayer having been completed the five. Dr. Swope delivered a singularity magnesive sermon on the text "God

manifest in the fiesh." The solemp'ty of the sacramental service was "greatly heigh ened by the exquisite nusical according manifest in the number of communicants was musually lenge and the ceremony of administeric," the sacrament occupied nearly an hour.

Grace Church.

y sfore than usually fashionable seemed the audience gathered yesterday morning in Grace church. Th's may be partially owing to the effect of the outdoor sunlight streaming in through the richly stained windows, giving a richer glow to the toilel of the ladies, making up fully two-thirds of the congregation. The church, moreover, with its festions of evergreens and wreaths of codar and laurel decorating the altar, pillars, walls and chancel, wore a pleasingly festal look. The monster—we speak now in a purely physiological sense—Brown appeared unusually festive, and did the honors of his special vocation with wonted grace and agility. At the church was crowded, even to the standing roon in the vestibule, and continued so to the close. A many came to see and be seen, and the most to hear the exquisite music for which this church has so long been eminently historic, and in order to hear which, it being and whiched among the dry ceremo-ries of the ritual, it was necessary to remain through the entire service.

the exquisite music for which this cherch has so long been eminently bistoric, and in order to hear which, it being gandwiched among the dry ceremonics of the ridual, it was necessary to remain through the entire service.

Rev. Dr. Potter, the rector, aided by Rev. Dr. McAllister, conducted the usual morning services, and at their close Dr. Potter preached a discourse. He took for his text Hebrews 1, 6—"and again when He bringela in the first begotten into the world He saith, 'And let all the angels of God worship him.')" They had come together on this day, commemorative of the birth of Christ, to worship and soing songs of gladness that Christ was born and come to redeem the world. He would have them make it a day of hearty merriment—a day for children's laughter—a day when they should carry out the rule of the old king, "Let us be merry." But there should be something deeper than mere worldly enjoyment—a welling up of sy apathy for the poor, a spirit of forgiveness toward those who had injured them, a determination to enter with more fidelity upon the discharge of their duties as Christians. He pictured what would be the result if Christ was unrecognized on earth, if the bells of churches were tongue-tied and if the worship of Christ was interdicted. The condition of society, he showed, would then be worse than in the most terrible times of the French Revolution, and that hust and rapine and war would take possession of the carth. He next proceeded to enforce their duty, on this above all other days, to remember their obligations to Christ. First, it was their duty to worship him. Most meet it was their duty to worship him. Most meet it was their duty to worship him. Most meet it was their duty to worship him. Most meet it was their duty to worship him. Most meet it was their duty to worship him. Most meet it was their duty to worship him. Most meet it was their duty to worship him. Most meet it was their duty to worship him. Most meet it was their duty to worship him how they have a different him him and the

two hours.

St. Stephen's Church-Dietsch's Mass. Those who wish to hear the highest form of church music will find it at this church on all great festivals, more particularly at Christmas times: The mass sung there yesterday was one never before ranist of the Church of St. Enstache, Paris. It was first produced in that church in the year 1838. It is on a grander and broader scale than any of those masses commonly in use in churches. It is also very long and elaborate, there being no less than two hundred pages in the score. The Kyrte alone is a work in itself. The mass was given yesterday in a superb manner by Thomas' orchestra of thirty in strumentalists, the Berge Choral Union and others, numbering over sixty voices, all under the directio of the organist, Dr. William Berge. The soloists were Mine. De Lussan, soprano; Mine. Anschutz, contralto; signor Tamisco, tenor, and Mr. Iluschmitz, basso. The oreatestra throughout the mass is very fine and abounds in striking effects. It occasionally reminds one of the Meyerbeer school. In massing voices and instruments to produce a climax Mr. Dietach displays remarkable power. The Gloria opens grandly. After a trimmphant outburst of the entire orchestra, in which the staccate of the strings forms an effective contrast to the sustained notes of the brass and wind instruments, and which is somewhat like the opening of the Gloria in the Twelfth Mass of Mozart, the voices come in as in an octette and produce a stirring effect. The words Gloria in excessis Deo are afterwards repeated in plain chant style, with strings alone in the accompaniment. The Laudamus is one of the most beautiful tenor solos we have ever heard in a mass, and it received full justice from Mr. Tamaro, the strings alone accompanying the voice. Then follows a lovely quartet, Qui Polite, which is equal in melody to anything we have heard in church of the organist, Dr. William Berge. The soloists were

Tamaro, the strings alone accompanying the voice. Then follows a lovely quartet, Qui Toilis, which is equal in melody to anything we have heard in church unsic. The Quomiam is a repetition of the opening. The cum Sancto is a fugue more trying than even the celebrated one in Mozart's Twelfth. The basses open the Credo in an effective manner. The soprane has an excellent opportunity to display her powers in the solo Et Incurnatus, with string accompaniment and flute, clarioner and basson obligati. The Cracifixus is a fine example of declamation on the part of the basses and dramatic effect on the part of the orchestra. Et Resurrexis commences with the trombones and is gradually worked up to a grand climax, emblemated of the triumph of the Redeemer over death. Et Herum Venturus Est commences with a fanfare of trumpets to signify the coming of the last dread Judge. The finale of the Ordo if grand in the extreme. There are many gems also in the Structus and Agnus Dei. At the offertory Berge's brilliant arrangement of the Adeste was sung. Thomas led the orchestra in the Semiram and overture before mass and in the march from the Reine de Saba at therend, it is egodom such a grand work as Dielsch's Mass is heard in a caurch in this city.

The great church was crowded in every part—pews, alsies and galieries—a vast human wave filling its whole space, beating restressly but noiselessly, even against the steps of the sanctuary. Many among his concourse were but hie loungers, curions respecting the forms of Gatholic worship or attracted by the expectation of grand orchestral display. But there were others, and these the larger number, plous Christians, who came to make their humble offering of love and prayer to Him whose first coming they that day celebrated, and join in the holy sacrifice of the mass, commemorative of the work he attended to the work as a final form for the work of his redemption. Referring to the lower among us. The reverence she immensity and grandeur of the work and sheat of the churchs were and sheat

Day.

But little effort at supplementary ornamentation was apparent in the church, the rich, prominent decorations of the building rendering such unnecessary. The altar was, however, tastefully festioned with green, in honor of the festival.

Church of St. Charles Borromeo, Brooklyn.

The Christmas services in the new church of Charles Borromeo, corner of Sidney place and Liv-ingston street, Brooklyn, were conducted yesterday with great solemnity, under the direction of the pastor, Rev. Dr. Freel. Although the building has been but recently created, to supply the place of the old church, which was destroyed by fire last spring and is not yet complete in its internal decorations the walls and the space above the tabernacle being still unadorned with pictures—such beauty as crosses, stars and wreaths of evergreens could impart was tastefully supplied, giving quite an appropriate holiday air to the unfinished interior. A grand high mass was celebrated at half-past ten, Father Thomas McGivern being the celebrant and Rev. Dr. Freel deacon. The music was superb. It was rendered by the quartet choir, composed of Mine. M. Boulight, soprano; Miss L. Pethick, alto; Mr. C. L. Brust, tenor, and Mr. O. Fleming, basso, A well-batanced orchestra was added to the admirable organ performance of Mr. William Dressler, the conductor and organist of the church, who has been able, through many years' connection with the singers, to make the most perfect choir in the city. The mass was Generall's most brilliant composition in C; the Sanctus, and Benedictus, qui venit in Nomine Domins, were by Rinck. At the offeriory the Canting & Noel, a soprano solo and chorus, a grand piece, with an exquisite orchestral accompanioned, was given by Madame Boulight. This is a new arrangement of Dressler, which does him great credit. The Christmas anthem, Accele Pilates, was appendidly sung before the setmon, a fervid and touching diacourse, which delivered by Rev. Dr. Frees, after the communion, assessed the gospel of the day, taken from the first the walls and the space above the tabernacle being

chapter of St. John, from the first to the fourteenth verse. When the mass was concluded the orchestra and organ played Rossin's grand overture to "William Tell." The collection was for the benealt of the orphans—a most appropriate disposition of the contributions on the festival of the child Saviour, who declared that of those who fill our orphan asylums the kingdom of God is composed.

nthon Memorial Church (Protestant Episcopal)-Ceremonies on Christmas Eve for the Sanday School-Rev. S. H. Tyng, Jr.-

This church, on West Forty-eighth street, near seventh avenue, was almost inconveniently crowded the church and their parents having been invited to attend. An immense Christmas tree was erected in attend. An immense Christmas tree was erected in the main aisle, illuminated with numerous wax tapers and bending under the weight of suitable presents—books, cornucopias and appropriate toys for the smallest. Rev. T. A. Jaggar, the rector, officiated, and in impressive words explained the importance of the festival to mankind, and key. Stephen H. Tyng, Jr., pronounced the benediction, addressing effecting and eloquent remarks to the children and their cloers. The collection from the children alone amounted to seventy dollars, intended to assist in furnishing the newsboys of the city a "merry Christmas."

Church of the Annunciation.

At the Church of the Annunciation, in West Fourteenth street yesterday morning, divine services were celebrated according to the Episcopal ritual. The church was handsomely decorated with evergreens and holly, and over and in front of the altar three and nony, and over and in front of the attar three evergreen arches were sprung, the middle arch being surmainted by a large cross. A large and fashionable congregation were in attendance. A very fine sermon was delivered by the rector, the Rev. W. J. Seabury, who took his text from the second chapter of St. Luke, eleventh and twelfth verses. The music was also very fine, the different anthoms, chants and hymns being well rendered by a choir of boys, under the able management of Mr. Jerome Hopkins. Mr. W. Wild presided at the organ.

St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church. At St. Teresa's church twelve masses were cele-brated yesterday morning, the first a solemn high mass at half-past four o'clock, the pastor, the Rev. Father Boyce, officiating. The high altar was sur mounted by a brilliant was jet in the shape of a mounted by a brilliant gas jet in the shape of a crescent, presenting the words "Gloria in Excelsis Deo." The altar was decorated with natural flowers, presented by a lady member of the congregation. The church at each of the masses was filled to its its intmost capacity with devout worshippers. At the earlier masses over one thousand persons received the blessed sacrament. The choir was under the conduct of Mr. McGrath, the organist of the church, under whose direction the grand music of Rossini was brilliantly executed. The second high mass was celebrated at half-past ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Rev. Father Flattery officiating.

St. Francis Xavier's.

At the Church of St. Francis Xavier, in West Sixteenth street, a selemn high mass was celebrated at ten o'clock vesterday morning. The church is undergoing repairs, and consequently there were no decorations of any amount. The altar was, how decorations of any amount. The altar was, how-ever, brillantly lighted and decorated with natural flowers. A large congregation was present, who listened devotedly to the services. The grand mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Daly, assisted by the deacon and sub-deacon. The music and solos were finely rendered. Rev. Father Daly delivered an able and carefully prepared sermon, taking for his text the second chapter of St. Luke.

St. George's Church..
One of the greatest holldays in the Protestant

Episcopal calendar is Christmas Day. Yesterday the service at St. George's church, Rutherford place, was performed as on Sunday. The attendance was large and fashionable. The music was rendered with superior effect and the choral singing was excellent. The Rew. Dr. Tyng and son officiated. Dr. Tyng preached the sermon, taking his text from the fifty-third chapter of Isalah—"He is despised and rejected of men." The reverend preacher commenced by remarking on the strict fulfillment of these prophetic words in the sacred book, and proceeded to review the wonderful history of the birth of the Son of God, dwelling with much eloquence on his humble infant life, the visit of the shepherds and the magi to the stable where the new born King of Heaven was brought forth. How sublime, how impressive, what deep and holy lessons does it not inculcate, d the preacher; and after showing that the act of the Saviour in becoming man was purely an act of love, he exhorted his hearers to meditate on that love and respond in grateful affection by leading lives of charity and truth. Communion took place after the sermon. The Rev. Dr. Tyng and son officiated. Dr. Tyng

### THE DAY AT THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Christmas is a time of rejoleing, not only for the wealthy, who are surrounded by all the luxuries that wealth can bestow, who enjoy the society of friends and the fascinating influences of splendid entertainments, but also the poor and lowly, and even the inmates of the public institutions are made to feel its joyous influence.
In the various institutions on Blackwell's, Ward's,

Randali's and Hart's Islands the inmates were treated to a bountiful Christmas dinner of chickens, turkeys and pies, followed by various and amusing Commissioners Brennan and Beil visited the hos-pitals and asylums to superintend the arrangements and to see that their instructions were fully carried

Randail's Island.

A very interesting entertainment was afforded the children, which commenced by prayer by the chap-lain, Rev. Marinus Willett. This was followed by a

lain, Rev. Marinus Willett. This was followed by a hymn, in which 'all the children joined in one chorus of thanksgiving and praise. The programme comprised hymns, dialogues and addresses, which were all executed in a very satisfactory manner; after which the little ones retired to enjoy their Christmas dinner.

The good Santa Claus had also visited the Island, for several Christmas trees, hung with templing dolls, jumping jacks and toys of all kinds, were among the attractions. Mrs. Gibbens, who keeps the Home for Fallen Women, on Tenth avenue, and other ladies, attended with baskets full of such things as can delight the hearts of young folk. The children looked clean, well clud and perfectly happy. Even the unfortunates of the idad Asylum looked cheerful and sontent, as they enjoyed their samptions Christmas Ginner.

There are number of infant children in the nursery hospital here who are to be transferred to the new nespital on Randall's Island when completed. The poor little outcasts appeared to be well cared for and fed. Though not old enough to admire the pretty Christmas trees or the little toys they articssi;

christmas trees or the little toys they artiessly played with, still they looked happy, as if they could realize that it was the anniversary of the coming of the Babe of Bethlehem.

The Inebriate Asylum is the most interesting institution upon the island. It is fitted up in the most sumptuous manner. The neors are carpeted, the furniture is of the best and most modern style, the library is well stored with books and the dinner table, which was laden with the choicest viands, was waited upon by clean, well dressed servants. A stranger, strolling through the different apartiments and seeing the elegant, well dressed gentlemen occupying them, might naturally conclude that he had dropped into some first class hotel.

Several of the gentlemen were engaged at billiards, others were reading, while many were guily chatting with their friends, who had paid them a Christmas visit. They celebrated the featival with a grand musical and dramatic emertainment, under the control of the Medical Superintendent, Dr. W. Fisher, which was followed by a serio-comic extravaganza called "The Excise Law." As for their Christmas dinner it did not a lint of much improvement upon their regular fare.

Blackwell's Island.

The many institutions, hospitals, asylums, alms houses, Penitentiary, &c., on this island were all fitted up for the occasion. The rooms were adorned with wreaths and flowers, while several Christmas trees glowed with their tempting prizes. Even the poor gibbering imbeciles of the lunatic asylum laugued and on attered and danced around with delaughed and to attered and danced around with delight, and the keepers had to keep a close watch
upon them to prevent them from snatching away the
toys and flowers that so captivated their bewildered
minds. They, too, had their Christmas dinner of
fowl and other meass, and in the evening were
treated to a magic lantern exhibition.
The immates of the Peniteutiary appeared to enjoy
themselves in a more exhibatating manner than the
others. A fiddler was perched up on a raised dais
in the hall, scraping away for the bare life, while
around him couples gaily tripped it on the light fantastic toe.

in the hall, scraping away for the bare life, while around him couples gaily tripped to on the light fantastic toe.

From the graceful, artistic dancing of some of the young women it was too evident that they were once the belies and admiration of some low playhouse or flash saloon.

This influence of a good dinner and the cheerful surroundings seemed to exercise a most happy influence upon all the tumates of the various institutions. They laughed and joked and pleasantly answered the kind inquiries of the Commissioners. There is in the incuracise Hospital a most patriarchal looking Fremchman. He is minely-four years of age and has a distinguished history. He emissed under the First Expeleon as a drummer boy and served all through his remarkable campaigns until after the battle of waterloo. He is yet a nate old man, able

And show how fleuts were fought and won. the old eyes brighten un and his bent flaure assumes

a martial bearing when he speaks of Le petit Fra-

The Javenile Guardian Society. Yesterday the Juvenile Guardian Society heig its Christmas festival and celebration in the hall of No. 207 Rowery, the Bowery Industrial, the Bowery Mission and the Clinton Mission schools, aggregating upwards of 700 scholars, being present, under the direction of the superintendent, D. F. Robertson. Appropriate addresses were made, and some singing by the children was an interesting feature of the occasion. Two large Christmas trees, laden with Santa Claus' merchandise, were prominent objects, especially to the eyes of the deligited juveniles, and presents were distributed to all the children.

Free Hollday Entertainments. The trustees of the Cooper Union for the Advance-ment of Science and Art announce the following attractions for the working classes during the holidays:-The new picture gallery, to which nearly all

the artists of New York have kindly loaned their works, will be open day and evening. Dr. Boynton's matinee for ladies and children

Dr. Boynton's matinee for ladies and children only to-day at two P. M. precisely. Admission by the ticket previously issued for Dr. Boynton's lectures. No boys over sixteen years old will be admitted.

This evening Professor Woodester has generously consented to present his series of beautiful views of Paris and the Exposition. Doors open at seven and close of eight o'clock precisely.

On Saturday next, January 2, Dr. Boynton will give a final lecture to the pupils of the institute and their friends. Tickets will issue from the office of the curator, Vincent Colyer.

#### PARADES.

The Fantasticals.

Contrary to their usual custom these funny fellows made no display yesterday in the shape of a groa few of them, including the frishman and the inevitable Yankee, both in the antiquated costume of their respective countries, were observed to take their departure in a Third avenue car from the vicinity of the City Hall, bound, no doubt, for some festive suburban retreat to enjoy the day in their own peculiar manner.

Target Excuesions

There was a great falling off in target excursion s vesterday when compared with previous years. Whether this was owing to the coldness of the day or to a desire to honor the festival of man's redempto a desire to honor the festival of man's redemption in a more quiet and domestic manner at the fireside by that class of the community who hitherto turned out on excursions we cannot say; but certain it is that, beyond one or two small companies, principally composed of boys, in Hariem, and one company down town, no further display was made, as far as our reporter could see or nears.

Christmas on the Ice-Where the Skaters Went.
Personal preferences determine for different indi-

viduals divers amusements, and personal preferences are largely influenced by constitutional temperament. This fact was clearly proved yesterday; for although the holiday was universal the various means of enjoyment which were used were as different as were the persons who made holiday. Some found their highest enjoyment in remaining within doors and taking part in the pleasures of the home circle; others made use of the day as an excuse for bacchanalian jollification; some helped to augment the crowds which filled up the various places of amusement in the city; while others (and a goodly number, too) took advantage of the general holiday by spending its hours upon the ice in pursuit of their favorite pastime. There are a great many persons who cannot skate and who have never lelt any inclination to learn to do so, and to these it seems quite a myslery that really sensible men and women can find true enjoyment in gilding about over the slippery surface of some frozen pond, and there are others who would very much like to be skaters, but who, from constitutional weakness or infirmity, are both these classes the most charming of all winter outdoor exercises is a "dead letter," and therefore they are incompetent to say anything about it-at

any rate to its disadvantage.

To know how to skate nowadays is almost a necessity with all those who are anxious to be considered up to the times, and a young man or lady who cannot go alone upon the ice is hardly considered to have finished his or her education. During the past few years skating has been almost the past few years skating has been almost reduced to a science in our midst, and it is not too much to say that there are more skilled skaters, both male and female, in this country than in any of the European States. The great charm about the skatatorial art is that it is exhibitating and health-giving, and calculated to add a general robustness to the human frame. Then, too, it is an amusement in which both ladies and gentlemen can take part, ladies have for a long time suffered for the want of good, healthful outdoor amusement. While young men were enjoying their buseball and cricket, yachting and rowing, shooting and hunting, ladies were for a long time without any outdoor sport in the enjoyment of which they should be able old curmudgeon, had made it improper for the sentier sex to have any peculiar amusement which could be enjoyed in the open air, and also forbidden their joining in the sports of the "lords of creation." But when skating became fashionable her commandments were broken, and the ladies soon made their appearance upon the lee in large numbers, and entered into the sport with great zest and enthusiasm, skating is now looked forward to by ladies and gentlemen as the great pleasure of winter, and the Christmas holiday is always used by large numbers in the enjoyment this most enjoyable of winter pastimes.

skating is now looked forward to by ladies and gentlemen as the great piensure of winter, and the Christmas holiday is always used by large numbers in the enjoyment this most enjoyable of winter pastimes.

Yesterday was cold. Those persons who only left their homes to walk through the streets on their way to visit friends or to enter some of the theatres which were opened to provide anusement for the holiday throngs instinctively battoned their coats tightly and thrust their hands deep in their pockets as they felt the wintry breeze; those who were irravelling felt draughts playing around them from every window in the cars and haddled round the stoves; even indoors, before a blazing fire, it was difficult to keep warm all over as once. But notwithstanding all the coldness of the weather, hundreds of skatera started out for the various ponds, determined to brave the breath of Old Horras and to get themselves warm in spite of thm. There was good ice every where. King Frost had been working for three days in preparing for the skating carnival, and his servants had been seconding his efforts, so that his subjects should not be disappointed of their militial and the office of the stating properties of their militial and the piece of the stating places was alkenily warmed by the merry laughter of the pipping blest the skating prince of the wind was made to feel the alipping blest, the skating places was slightly warmed by the merry laughter of the pipous whitely warmed by the merry laughter of the pipous whitely warmed by the merry laughter of the pipous whitely warmed by the merry laughter of the pipous whitely warmed by the merry laughter of the pipous whitely warmed opportunity for the wind to pero into every lace and whistle round every form; what though the ponds were exposed and give usaniform, on skates—a Christmas on skates—fine in the cars was a long and freezing one—was in not Christmas day, a general heliday, and was incoming until late at night.

The Park round and happiness; the late working war for the